

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE  
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT OF 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 927) to reauthorize the Sea Grant Program, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 927

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998".

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment or repeal to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121 et seq.).

**SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

(a) Section 202(a)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) encourage the development of forecast and analysis systems for coastal hazards;";

(b) Section 202(a)(6) (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(6)) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "The most cost-effective way to promote such activities is through continued and increased Federal support of the establishment, development, and operation of programs and projects by sea grant colleges, sea grant institutes, and other institutions.".

**SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) Section 203 (33 U.S.C. 1122) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking "their university or" and inserting "his or her"; and

(B) by striking "college, programs, or regional consortium" and inserting "college or sea grant institute";

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) The term 'field related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources' means any discipline or field, including marine affairs, resource management, technology, education, or science, which is concerned with or likely to improve the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources.";

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (15) as paragraphs (7) through (17), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) The term 'Great Lakes' includes Lake Champlain.

"(6) The term 'institution' means any public or private institution of higher education, institute, laboratory, or State or local agency.";

(4) by striking "regional consortium, institution of higher education, institute, or laboratory" in paragraph (11) (as redesignated) and inserting "institute or other institution"; and

(5) by striking paragraphs (12) through (17) (as redesignated) and inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

"(12) The term 'project' means any individually described activity in a field related to

ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources involving research, education, training, or advisory services administered by a person with expertise in such a field.

"(13) The term 'sea grant college' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) of this Act.

"(14) The term 'sea grant institute' means any institution, or any association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as such by the Secretary under section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) of this Act.

"(15) The term 'sea grant program' means a program of research and outreach which is administered by one or more sea grant colleges or sea grant institutes.

"(16) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

"(17) The term 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.".

(b) The Act is amended—

(1) in section 209(b) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)), as amended by this Act, by striking ", the Under Secretary,"; and

(2) by striking "Under Secretary" every other place it appears and inserting "Secretary".

**SEC. 5. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

Section 204 (33 U.S.C. 1123) is amended to read as follows:

**"SEC. 204. NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.**

"(a) PROGRAM MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary shall maintain within the Administration a program to be known as the national sea grant college program. The national sea grant college program shall be administered by a national sea grant office within the Administration.

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The national sea grant college program shall consist of the financial assistance and other activities authorized in this title, and shall provide support for the following elements—

"(1) sea grant programs which comprise a national sea grant college program network, including international projects conducted within such programs;

"(2) administration of the national sea grant college program and this title by the national sea grant office, the Administration, and the panel;

"(3) the fellowship program under section 208; and

"(4) any national strategic investments in fields relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources developed with the approval of the panel, the sea grant colleges, and the sea grant institutes.

"(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

"(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall develop a long-range strategic plan which establishes priorities for the national sea grant college program and which provides an appropriately balanced response to local, regional, and national needs.

"(2) Within 6 months of the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall establish guidelines related to the activities and responsibilities of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes. Such guidelines shall include requirements for the conduct of merit review by the sea grant colleges and

sea grant institutes of proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 205, providing, at a minimum, for standardized documentation of such proposals and peer review of all research projects.

"(3) The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe the qualifications required for designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes under section 207.

"(4) To carry out the provisions of this title, the Secretary may—

"(A) appoint, assign the duties, transfer, and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, in accordance with civil service laws;

"(B) make appointments with respect to temporary and intermittent services to the extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

"(C) publish or arrange for the publication of, and otherwise disseminate, in cooperation with other offices and programs in the Administration and without regard to section 501 of title 44, United States Code, any information of research, educational, training or other value in fields related to ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes resources;

"(D) enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other transactions without regard to section 5 of title 41, United States Code;

"(E) notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, accept donations and voluntary and uncompensated services;

"(F) accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies, including agencies within the Administration, to pay for and add to grants made and contracts entered into by the Secretary; and

"(G) promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary and appropriate.

"(d) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.—

"(1) The Secretary shall appoint, as the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program, a qualified individual who has appropriate administrative experience and knowledge or expertise in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The Director shall be appointed and compensated, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, at a rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code.

"(2) Subject to the supervision of the Secretary, the Director shall administer the national sea grant college program and oversee the operation of the national sea grant office. In addition to any other duty prescribed by law or assigned by the Secretary, the Director shall—

"(A) facilitate and coordinate the development of a long-range strategic plan under subsection (c)(1);

"(B) advise the Secretary with respect to the expertise and capabilities which are available within or through the national sea grant college program and encourage the use of such expertise and capabilities, on a cooperative or other basis, by other offices and activities within the Administration, and other Federal departments and agencies;

"(C) advise the Secretary on the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, and, if appropriate, on the termination or suspension of any such designation; and

"(D) encourage the establishment and growth of sea grant programs, and cooperation and coordination with other Federal activities in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

"(3) With respect to sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, the Director shall—

"(A) evaluate the programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, using the priorities, guidelines, and qualifications established by the Secretary;

"(B) subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate funding among sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes so as to—

"(i) promote healthy competition among sea grant colleges and institutes;

"(ii) encourage successful implementation of sea grant programs; and

"(iii) to the maximum extent consistent with other provisions of this Act, provide a stable base of funding for sea grant colleges and institutes; and

"(C) ensure compliance with the guidelines for merit review under subsection (c)(2)."

#### **SEC. 6. REPEAL OF SEA GRANT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.**

Section 3 of the Sea Grant Program Improvement Act of 1976 (33 U.S.C. 1124a) is repealed.

#### **SEC. 7. SEA GRANT COLLEGES AND SEA GRANT INSTITUTES.**

Section 207 (33 U.S.C. 1126) is amended to read as follows:

##### **"SEC. 207. SEA GRANT COLLEGES AND SEA GRANT INSTITUTES.**

"(a) DESIGNATION.—

"(1) A sea grant college or sea grant institute shall meet the following qualifications—

"(A) have an existing broad base of competence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

"(B) make a long-term commitment to the objective in section 202(b), as determined by the Secretary;

"(C) cooperate with other sea grant colleges and institutes and other persons to solve problems or meet needs relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources;

"(D) have received financial assistance under section 205 of this title (33 U.S.C. 1124);

"(E) be recognized for excellence in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources (including marine resources management and science), as determined by the Secretary; and

"(F) meet such other qualifications as the Secretary, in consultation with the panel, considers necessary or appropriate.

"(2) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant college if the institution, association, or alliance—

"(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

"(B) maintains a program of research, advisory services, training, and education in fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

"(3) The Secretary may designate an institution, or an association or alliance of two or more such institutions, as a sea grant institute if the institution, association, or alliance—

"(A) meets the qualifications in paragraph (1); and

"(B) maintains a program which includes, at a minimum, research and advisory services.

"(b) EXISTING DESIGNEES.—Any institution, or association or alliance of two or more such institutions, designated as a sea grant college or awarded institutional program status by the Director prior to the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, shall not have to reapply for designation as a sea grant college or sea grant institute, respectively, after the date of enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1998, if the Director determines that the institution, or association or alliance of institutions, meets the qualifications in subsection (a).

"(c) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may, for cause and after an opportunity for hearing, suspend or

terminate any designation under subsection (a).

"(d) DUTIES.—Subject to any regulations prescribed or guidelines established by the Secretary, it shall be the responsibility of each sea grant college and sea grant institute—

"(1) to develop and implement, in consultation with the Secretary and the panel, a program that is consistent with the guidelines and priorities established under section 204(c); and

"(2) to conduct a merit review of all proposals for grants and contracts to be awarded under section 205."

#### **SEC. 8. SEA GRANT REVIEW PANEL.**

(a) Section 209(a) (33 U.S.C. 1128(a)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) Section 209(b) (33 U.S.C. 1128(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Panel" and inserting "(b) DUTIES.—The panel";

(2) by striking "and section 3 of the Sea Grant College Program Improvement Act of 1976" in paragraph (1); and

(3) by striking "regional consortia" in paragraph (3) and inserting "institutes".

(c) Section 209(c) (33 U.S.C. 1128(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "college, sea grant regional consortium, or sea grant program" and inserting "college or sea grant institute"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5)(A) and inserting the following:

"(A) receive compensation at a rate established by the Secretary, not to exceed the maximum daily rate payable under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, when actually engaged in the performance of duties for such panel; and".

#### **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS.—Section 212(a) (33 U.S.C. 1131(a)) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

"(A) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 1999;

"(B) \$57,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

"(C) \$58,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;

"(D) \$59,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

"(E) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

"(2) ZEBRA MUSSEL AND OYSTER RESEARCH.—In addition to the amount authorized for each fiscal year under paragraph (1)—

"(A) up to \$2,800,000 may be made available as provided in section 1301(b)(4)(A) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4741(b)(4)(A)) for competitive grants for university research on the zebra mussel;

"(B) up to \$3,000,000 may be made available for competitive grants for university research on oyster diseases and oyster-related human health risks; and

"(C) up to \$3,000,000 may be made available for competitive grants for university research on *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other harmful algal blooms."

(b) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN FUNDING.—Section 212(b)(1) (33 U.S.C. 1131(b)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

"(1) LIMITATION.—No more than 5 percent of the lesser of—

"(A) the amount authorized to be appropriated; or

"(B) the amount appropriated,

for each fiscal year under subsection (a) may be used to fund the program element contained in section 204(b)(2).

"(c) NOTICE OF REPROGRAMMING.—If any funds authorized by this section are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives

and the Senate, notice of such action shall concurrently be provided to the Committees on Science and Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

"(d) NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.—The Secretary shall provide notice to the Committees on Science, Resources, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 45 days before any major reorganization of any program, project, or activity of the National Sea Grant College Program."

#### **SEC. 10. ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.**

Notwithstanding section 559 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to any marine resource conservation law or regulation administered by the Secretary of Commerce acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, all adjudicatory functions which are required by chapter 5 of title 5 of such Code to be performed by an Administrative Law Judge may be performed by the United States Coast Guard on a reimbursable basis. Should the United States Coast Guard require the detail of an Administrative Law Judge to perform any of these functions, it may request such temporary or occasional assistance from the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to section 3344 of title 5, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 927, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program. This bill is very similar to the legislation that I introduced in January, 1997, and in fact, that bill passed the House with 422 votes on June 18.

Mr. Speaker, the bill that passed the House on June 18 by a vote of 422 to zero was virtually the same as this bill. The House bill had the bipartisan support of 107 cosponsors, including the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), ranking Democrat, and the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans.

The version of the bill adopted by the House was a compromise version adopted by the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Science.

The National Sea Grant College Program was established by Congress in 1966 to improve our Nation's marine resources and conservation efforts, to better manage those resources, and to enhance their proper utilization.

S. 927, the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act of 1997, authorizes funding for Sea Grant through fiscal year 2003; simplifies the definition of issues under the Sea

Grant authority; clarifies the responsibilities of State and national programs; consolidates and clarifies the requirements for the designation of Sea Grant colleges and regional groups; and assures that the Sea Grant research will be adequately peer reviewed.

It also authorizes funding for timely research on oyster diseases and oyster-related human health risks, *Pfiesteria* and other harmful algae blooms and zebra mussels.

Mr. Speaker, I have carefully reviewed the language in this Senate-passed legislation and find it substantially the same as that passed here; and I support the changes approved by the other body with the minor changes we are making today. By enacting this legislation, we will be sending a clear message supporting the conservation and researched-based management of our marine and coastal resources.

The Sea Grant program has been a big success, and I am pleased that after 3 years of hard work we are now poised to extend this most important environmental program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of the bill. S. 927 provides a strong reauthorization of the National Sea Grant College Program which, for over 30 years, has addressed important local, regional and national marine resource problems through education, research and public outreach.

The legislation before the House is a compromise with the other body. It reauthorizes Sea Grant for 5 years. It clarifies the roles of the national office and the Sea Grant colleges. It strengthens competitive peer review for grants and contracts for research, education and outreach, and generally brings Sea Grant up to date as a modern education and research program.

The authorization levels in the bill will fully fund Sea Grant's ongoing base program, while providing additional funding for certain research priorities, which include nonindigenous species, oyster disease, and toxic microbe *Pfiesteria*.

□ 1845

While I do not question the validity of research in these areas, I regret that some Members have felt it necessary to question whether all of these research options are necessary. One of the sea grant's great strengths over the years has been its ability to respond rapidly and effectively to local and regional needs, Mr. Speaker. I think that that is something that is now involved in the program in a way that both the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON)

and myself can support. There is no reason to think that it will not continue to do so; that is to say, respond effectively to local needs under its usual effective peer review processes.

I would like to express my appreciation for the cooperation that we in the minority have received from the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the staffs on this bill.

I can assure my colleagues that on this bill any partisan considerations were put to rest with respect to the thrust of the legislative activity under consideration. This is not, therefore, a bipartisan bill, this is a nonpartisan bill. I think all of us who represent coastal areas have long appreciated the benefits of this practical and non-controversial program. It is a good bill, reauthorizing a popular program. I am glad we are doing it at this time. I most certainly urge the House to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, to show the support of Texas for the sea grant reauthorization, I rise in support of the National Sea Grant College program. The National Sea Grant College program was established in 1966 to provide wide stewardship over our marine and coastal resources. It is a partnership between universities, States, communities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The mission of the sea grant program is to promote and sponsor research and education and outreach aimed at the wise use of resources and the development and effective management and conservation programs that target our Nation's coastal and marine resources.

Texas A&M university has a Sea Grant College at Galveston, Texas which is actually in the district of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON). The program has spread throughout the Gulf Coast of Texas and throughout the whole State. I represent the port of Houston. So my home State of Texas allows individuals to learn about the ocean and the coastal environments and innovative marine technologies.

The 29th district that I represent has the port of Houston and the port plays a vital part in our economy and the livelihood of our surrounding communities. Texas A&M's Sea Grant College provides business owners, fishermen and the community groups that live and work along the port of Houston with information on how to achieve the most benefits economically while responsibly conserving the environment. Without the sea grant program, the citizens of Texas and our Nation will not stay current and be innovative and competitive with the rest of the world.

By reauthorizing the Sea Grant College program through the year 2003, we have ensured that we will train our fu-

ture citizens, future citizens who will not only look to protect our oceans and coastal areas but also be trained to properly manage our marine resources.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. This bill makes significant improvements in the sea grant program by streamlining the proposal review process, reducing the administrative costs and clarifying the Federal and university roles in the program. This program, in its 30-year history, has proven its value and worth to our country. I rise in support of the bill and I thank my colleague from Hawaii for yielding me the time and also the chairman of committee for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii for yielding me the time and special thanks to our chair of our great committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON). I rise on this issue because I think oftentimes Members do not understand why a program like sea grant is so important to our Nation.

We are a Nation surrounded by water. This whole globe is covered by water. Essentially the future of the survival of this planet is going to be dependent upon how societies treat the ocean. When we think about the meeting of land and water, which is the coastal zones of this country, that is the most fragile ecosystem there is on the planet because most of the people on this planet live in the coastal zone. So what happens is, if we do not understand what the significance is of using the ocean, dumping in the ocean, relying on the ocean, we are going to be victims of something we do not understand.

We are already finding that as we find fisheries that are overfished, as we find global climate change, all of these factors are dependent upon a program that invests in collecting the best minds there are in the country to put some effort into studying the ocean. That is what the sea grant program is all about.

There are 26 colleges in the United States that receive grants from this. It benefits the coastal States, benefits the Great Lakes States. These programs encompass advisory services, public education for marine scientists and also for our kindergarten through the 12th grade. So it is a program that is essentially looking into private sector collaboration with the government, an aquaculture program, coastal and estuarine research, marine biotechnology, marine fisheries management, and seafood safety.

You add it all up and this is really a very important program. Frankly, the Federal Government puts very little money into it. We ought to put a lot more. This whole issue is so important that the world, other countries in the world are involved along with us with an International Year of the Oceans.

This issue about what are we doing with authorizing the sea grant program is essentially we have made the administration of it much cleaner, much more specific, much more, I think, to the interests of, broader interests of this country, but we are also realizing that this agenda of engaging the smartest minds in this country is essentially an issue about survival, not just survival of the United States but survival of the globe. This is money well spent. This program is well done.

Let me just tell you a little story. Last year I was able to get a fellow in my office, Jennifer Newton. She has been so good at being a sea grant fellow that I hired her when her fellowship ended up to be in my program. So it brings people into the Capitol who would not otherwise be here and allows us access to good scientific minds. This reauthorization is a step well taken. It has no partisan differences. It is what we do here in Congress best.

I am very proud to rise in support of it and to thank my learned colleagues for their support and particularly the leadership of our chair and ranking member the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

This legislation particularly impacts those of us in the coastal area of Texas and as a Member of Congress that has an adjoining district near the Houston port as well as the Galveston coastline, we advocate clearly the need for legislation that provides for such improvement. I would argue that this is very important legislation and also legislation that is long overdue. I would like to thank both the chairman and ranking member for promoting this legislation and I might say to have it on the suspension calendar so that we might easily have it passed. I join my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), in advocating its importance for not only Texas but our local regional area.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND).

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) for bringing this legislation before us. It truly has bipartisan support. It is a wonderful program. It is a great piece of legislation. As many of the previous speakers have mentioned, it does really affect so many different States, those of us that are on the ocean, those of us in the Great Lakes.

But as the ocean State, Rhode Island has a very proud and rich maritime heritage. Not so coincidental the State has also had a proud and rich heritage with the sea grant program. My State's history with the National Sea Grant program dates back to 1968 when the

first funds were awarded to the graduate school of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island in Narragansett. In 1971, the university was established as a Sea Grant College, one of the first four in the country. The university was recertified as a sea grant institution most recently in 1985. Rhode Island also serves as the proud host of the National Sea Grant Depository. Housed in the Pell Marine Science Library at the university, it houses over 55,000 scientific, technical and advisory and education and public information reports on sea grant supported work throughout the world.

The sea grant program has allowed many valuable research and educational projects to be funded in my district, in my State and indeed throughout the country. Rhode Island alone has been the recipient of many programs that have been valuable in terms of providing new safety techniques for fish harvesting and environmentally sensitive beach erosion techniques, pollution mitigation for Narragansett Bay and other estuaries and streams and also valuable aquaculture that affects our State's economy.

Similar projects throughout the country have been wonderfully received, have been very valuable not only to the research in and the education that goes on at our universities but, importantly, to the economy and the economic well-being of our States.

These programs are aimed at not only saving our wonderful resources but also improving the businesses that use those resources. That is why it is so significant that we have been able to marry those two together in a very effective way to provide great preservation of our resources while at the same time recognizing its valuable input to our economy.

I join my colleagues in recommending and supporting passage of this legislation. I would like to thank the two managers of the legislation, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), for their effort to bring this to the floor.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to express once again my gratitude to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and express my very fond aloha to him and to the committee staff. Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone in the Congress is as devoted to the subject matter over which he has jurisdiction than the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON). The ocean resources over which this Nation has sovereignty and the concern that he expresses for this most valuable of all resources is something that sets the benchmark, I think, for all of us regardless of party.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would like to thank the gentleman for his very kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation and I am sure it is legislation that

every Member of the House will want to support. But this legislation is just an example of what can be done when we work on a bipartisan basis. The gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), who has served for 3 years as the ranking member of the committee, has been a major, major contributor to the bipartisan spirit that has permitted us to move through issue after issue and, frankly, without rancor, and frankly I cannot think of a time that we have come to the floor with major legislation since the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) has been the ranking member when we have had a disagreement. We work things out ahead of time. We do it in an amicable way. As a result of that, we have been able to pass legislation that deals with the marine environment, been able to pass a major legislation that deals with fisheries resources, major legislation that deals with the marine mammal, the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We passed legislation on protection of coral reefs. We reformed the national refuge system with new legislation last year.

□ 1900

We were able to pass a bill to promote volunteerism in the refuge system. We were able to pass coastal estuary issues to protect wetlands and so on along many coastal areas of our country, all because of the bipartisan spirit that has been exhibited by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and what he has brought to the committee.

Also, the gentleman is never at a loss for words when he is speaking up for the sea grant program, which also exists at the University of Hawaii, I would point out. He has been an outstanding advocate for his home, the humpback whale sanctuary and, of course, the National Undersea Research Laboratory, which is also in Hawaii.

So I would just like to say it is not aloha, probably. He will still be a member of the committee, even though it will not be the ranking member, and I will look forward to working with the gentleman on these issues as they come back to visit us and many others, I am sure, along the way.

It has been a pleasure over these past 3 years serving with the gentleman from Hawaii, and I will look forward to continuing our relationship.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for over three decades, the National Sea Grant College Program has performed an extraordinary service not only to the State of New Jersey, but also to the nation. Sea Grant is a competitive, merit-based, aquatic science program that benefits marine and freshwater industries, environments, and communities of the United States by applying science and technology to problems of day-to-day concern.

Few federal programs have achieved the exceptional economic impact that the Sea Grant College Program has shown since its inception in 1996. Research conducted through the Sea Grant Program is crucial to meeting

important objectives in the areas of aquatic resource conservation and management, sustainable development, technology innovation, and coastal and inland water quality. Furthermore, the program has proven to be very effective in transferring its scientific and technical results to industry as well as identifying and communicating local needs and problems to Sea Grant program managers and researchers.

Recent examples of Sea Grant supported research and outreach activities that have positively impacted the lives of New Jersey residents include:

Sponsoring a commercial fisherman's safety training program. Techniques learned in this course enabled a first mate on a Cape May fishing vessel to save the life of his captain's son during an accident at sea;

Supporting a "red tide" research effort to examine nitrogen inputs into estuaries. This project has already developed into a full-scale, water quality monitoring and management project with potential for national applications; and

Coordinating a partnership of the New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland Sea Grant Programs with the Public Service Gas and Electric Company (PSE&G) for a massive marsh restoration effort on the Delaware Bay. This effort is the largest of its kind in the country and represents a unique collaboration of government, industry, academic and scientific interests.

To be competitive in the future, it is essential that the U.S. develop a skilled workforce that is scientifically literate and environmentally sensitive. The National Sea Grant College Program has been a leader in science education from "hands-on" science experiences at the K-12 level, to supporting thousands of graduate students in aquatic and environmental science. Informal education of the general public and technical advice for businesses are also important aspects of Sea Grant's education objectives.

The National Sea Grant College Program is truly a program worthy of our investment. I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this issue as the appropriations process moves forward.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, as many of you know, this year has been designated the International Year of the Oceans. I am pleased that so early on in our legislative agenda, we have the chance to vote for something which so positively affects our understanding, and wise management of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

These resources are of great importance not only to our economy and the environment, but to our social and cultural vitality, and even our national security. But we put incredible pressures on these environments. Over half of our population lives in the 10% of land area defined as coastal. We have over-harvested many of the fish and other living resources. We alter the physical environment, filling in wetlands, dredging our harbors, and bulkheading our shorelines. We pollute. We introduce alien species into our ecosystems. We're adding sub-

stances to the atmosphere that increase ultraviolet radiation and alter the climate. We are inundated with news of disasters that affect our oceans and coasts, from harmful algal blooms such as the *Pfisteria* outbreaks this past summer, to medical wastes washing up on our shores.

I hope to be standing up in front of you soon to urge your support of the Oceans Act of 1997, H.R. 2547, legislation which I have put together with my colleagues to help ensure that our coasts and oceans are properly taken care of for generations to come.

I believe that Sea Grant is, and will be, an integral part of efforts to better understand, properly conserve, and sustainably use our marine resources. For over 30 years Sea Grant programs have supported high quality, competitive, peer reviewed science to better understand these dynamic resources, our effects on them, and to propose ways to minimize negative impacts while enhancing economic benefits. This information is then distributed to the public and user-groups through educational and advisory programs, so that they can manage and utilize these resources in a sustainable manner.

And these programs are fiscally responsible. Federal funding for Sea Grant must be matched by non-federal contributions, and over half of the funding for Sea Grant programs comes from non-federal sources.

Sea Grant provides virtually the only funding for the study of marine resource policy, and is a major contributor to efforts in aquaculture, coastal and estuarine research, marine biotechnology, marine fisheries management, and seafood safety.

Funded at about \$50 million dollars annually, a Sea Grant funded industrial pollution model has already led to over \$480 million dollars in savings for State pollution clean-up costs in the Great Lakes alone.

Sea Grant efforts have led to enhanced fisheries management and production, with direct economic benefits. In my own district, Sea Grant research is being conducted on how coastal upwelling affects larval survival in rockfish, a study important to properly managing the \$10 million-a-year rockfish fishery.

There's another project also underway to try to isolate medicinal products from marine algae. Sea grant programs have led to the discovery of more than 1,000 new compounds from marine organisms, and 14 new product patents to date.

A third project in my district is dealing with the important topic of preserving marine biodiversity, comparing the current diversity of the rocky intertidal in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, one of the most biologically diverse regions known, to diversity levels recorded in the 1970's. This research will put into perspective issues of long-term ecological stability and community persistence in the face of natural and human impacts.

And in my office this past year we had a Sea Grant fellow, a graduate student who was learning how to apply her scientific background and research to effective policy making.

This is a tremendously valuable, fiscally responsible program, and I urge you to support its reauthorization, as well as increased appropriations to the authorized amount in FY99.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 927, the National Sea Grant College Program Reauthorization Act. This is a long-awaited measure that reorganizes the nation's foremost aquatic educational grant program for the challenges of the Twenty-First Century.

We have only begun to understand the depth of knowledge that our oceans can yield to us. What little we have learned has done much to change humanity's perspective on its relationship with the sea. And I am proud to say that Sea Grant has had a major role in the progress made in aquatic research at the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, located in Port Norris, New Jersey.

In noting the provisions contained in S. 927 that authorize grants for oyster disease research, I am excited by the prospect of one day seeing Southern New Jersey watermen shovel bushels of oysters from the Delaware Bay, as they did many years ago. Research undertaken in this area by Rutgers University, through the financial assistance of New Jersey Sea Grant, will hopefully resurrect an industry that has all but disappeared from the Second Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support S. 927.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, reauthorizing the National Sea Grant College Program is not only an investment in the future of our nation's marine resources, it is also sound public policy. The various ingredients, such as scientific research, educational training, and community application, mixed into the complex operation of a sea grant college benefit not only regions close to marine resources, but the global population as a whole. For example, Sea Grant developed the first systematic attempt to locate and establish new drugs from marine components.

The development of our coastal regions means an increasing reliance on marine research to generate intelligence policies. Contributions in the area of aquatic resource management and sustainable economic development has made Sea Grant a vital link between scientific findings and local resource implementation. For Guam, this aspect is vitally important as we continue to attempt to fully utilize our Pacific resources.

I also emphasize the National Sea Grant College Program's contributions to science education. Through various activities, such as the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program, thousands of students are introduced to the wonders of marine science and research. Annually, Sea Grant supports 450 graduate students by employing them in research ventures. In addition, students from K-12 increase their marine knowledge through various Sea Grant sponsored activities.

The University of Guam collaborates in the Sea Grant Program through the University of Hawaii. However, the people of Guam look forward to a separate Sea Grant status. The Marine Laboratory in the University of Guam has evolved into an important marine research center serving not only Guam, but the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Guam has the support of the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of Interior in this issue.

Clearly the National Sea Grant Program is essential not only to our understanding and utilization of our marine resources, but for our economy, our environment and our students. I urge my colleagues to support its reauthorization.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House, today, to express my support for S. 927, a bill to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program through FY 2003.

Established by Congress in 1966, the National Sea Grant College Program has fostered the wise use, conservation, and management of marine and coastal resources through practical research, graduate student education, and public service.

I am proud that the University of Delaware has been a part of Sea Grant since 1976 when it became the 9th institution to join. In particular, the University of Delaware's program conducts research in environmental studies, fisheries, marine biotechnology, marine policy, seafood science, and coastal engineering.

Graduates from its program have gone on to make impressive contributions at the National Academy of Sciences, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Boston University School of Medicine, the U.S. State Department, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and a host of cutting-edge corporations.

The National Sea Grant College Program is much more than a research institution. Its staff reaches out to business owners, schoolteachers, and government agencies to provide them with objective information and assistance in addressing coastal problems and developing technology that benefits all of us.

For example, the National Sea Grant College Program conducted important research on mosquito-eating fish that help curb disease-carrying mosquito populations naturally. They also developed technology both to recycle crab shells into bandages and animal feed and to harvest pollution-free energy from ocean waves.

One of the most important services the National Sea Grant College Program provides is assistance in protecting beaches, roads, buildings and wildlife along our fragile coastlines. The sea Grant Program's research is responsible for developing a novel sand bypass system that protects coastlines from beach erosion.

Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration has not followed through on the investment this country made in the National Sea Grant College Program. In Delaware, the Administration has commissioned study after study that shows the tremendous need to construct the coastal protection technologies developed by the National Sea Grant College Program, but it refuses to honor its commitment to pay its share of the construction costs. As a result, in the last two weeks, Delaware has suffered tremendous damage in the wake of violent nor'easters.

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Mr. Speaker, every coastal state can boast the achievements of its Sea Grant College Program and every state benefits from its work. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent and the House passed similar legislation, H.R. 437, last June, by a vote of 422-3. Therefore, please join me in reauthorizing this worthy program.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support S. 927, and I am very pleased to see that we are considering it today. We began the process of reauthorizing the National Sea Grant College Program more than three years ago, and I hope we can now conclude it quickly.

Sea Grant was established in 1966 in order to improve our Nation's marine resource conservation efforts, to manage those resources more effectively, and to enhance their proper use. The program is patterned after the highly successful Land Grant College Program, which is familiar to many of our non-coastal members.

For over 30 years, Sea Grant has successfully achieved its goals through a unique combination of research grants, marine advisory services, and education. This year, Mr. Ron Dearborn, who does an excellent job as Director of the Alaska Sea Grant College Program, is serving as President of the Sea Grant Association. Alaska's Sea Grant program has improved our understanding of commercial fish stocks, the factors affecting the size and health of those stocks, and the best economic uses for fishery resources. Using this information, we have developed effective management regimes, and we continue to create more jobs while minimizing long-term impacts to our fisheries.

Alaska Sea Grant also supports a comprehensive Marine Advisory Service, which has provided industry training programs on topics ranging from marine safety and seafood technology to business management for fishermen and shoreside support facilities. Through proper training, we ensure that our industries, businesses, and individuals who depend on productive fisheries can continue to do their jobs effectively.

Sea Grant is a perfect example of the type of program that we should support. The program produces tangible results that help solve local and regional problems and, most importantly, it maximizes immediate and long-range returns by matching Federal investments with State and private funds.

The Resources and Science Committees were unable to reach agreement on reauthorizing legislation in the last Congress. In this Congress, H.R. 437, which was introduced by my colleague, Jim Saxton, and a number of other Members last year, and upon which S. 927 is based, passed the House by a vote of 422 to 3.

S. 927 is similar to H.R. 437, it enjoys widespread support, and I am confident that by voting for it now we can finally reauthorize this important program. Mr. Speaker, I urge an aye vote on S. 927.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The question is on the motion of-

ferred by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 927, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 927, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 354) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### S. RES. 354

*Resolved*, That the following Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Rogan of California.

Committee on National Security: Ms. Granger of Texas.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, last week many Members took the floor to pay tribute to Representative Ron Dellums. My schedule was such that I did not get an opportunity to do so at that time but I decided that I would come on this day so as not to miss the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, to every man there is a way, a ways and a way, the high souls take the highway, and the low souls take the low. While on the misty flats all the rest drift to and fro. To every